

Saleh criticises Saudis on Gulf crisis

NEW YORK (R) — The president of Yemen criticised Saudi Arabia for invading U.S.-led forces into the kingdom and accused the Saudis of trying to destabilise his country in an interview published in the New York Times Friday. The president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, said in an interview in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, that Riyadh had attempted to undermine his country's stability by forcing more than 500,000 Yemenis to leave neighbouring Saudi Arabia and return home. Saleh said the United States, the Soviet Union and several Arab countries had tried without success to persuade Saudi rulers to cancel moves against the estimated 1 million Yemenis living in the kingdom. The Times said officials in Washington confirmed Saleh's account. Saleh, who described Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as "an excellent Arab leader," said Yemen was neutral in the Gulf crisis. "We are not supporting any side, we are not aligned. We are not with Iraq, and, of course, we don't approve of the invasion of Kuwait," he said. "Yet at the same time, we don't approve of a foreign presence in the region," said Saleh.

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Egypt closes
airspace
to Sudanese plane

AMMAN (Petra) — The Sudanese ambassador to Jordan said Friday that Egyptian authorities had closed their airspace for Sudanese aircraft carrying Sudanese evacuees coming home from Iraq and Kuwait. The Egyptian measure took effect as of Wednesday Oct. 24. The ambassador said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Egyptian authorities banned a Sudanese aircraft heading from Khartoum to Amman to carry Sudanese evacuees from flying through Egyptian airspace. The plane had to change its course in order to reach Amman, he said. The ambassador considered the Egyptian move as a violation of United Nations' laws governing air traffic and expressed his astonishment at such a decision which was taken at a time when all efforts are being intensified to ensure the safe return of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait to their homeland.

Senegal wants OIC summit postponed

CAIRO (R) — Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Omar Sy said Friday his country would seek a postponement of next year's Islamic summit because of Arab divisions over the Gulf crisis. "Senegal refuses to be a capital for dividing the Muslim Nation," he told reporters after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "...It wants to be the capital where the Islamic Nation reconciles (its differences)," he added. "So, we'll ask for a postponement of the conference." Senegal is due to host the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in January and take over its chairmanship from Kuwait.

Washington mayor sentenced

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mayor Marion Barry was sentenced Friday to six months in prison, fined \$5,000 and given one year probation for his conviction on a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge. Barry declared himself "truly remorseful" and asked U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson for leniency. But Jackson told the mayor of the U.S. capital he had abused his office and the collective trust of the community. The sentencing ended a 10-month legal drama that began with the mayor's arrest Jan. 18 in a sting operation that caught him on videotape smoking crack cocaine with a former girlfriend.

Arab peacemakers discuss Lebanon

NICOSIA (R) — Arab peacemakers met in Saudi Arabia Friday to discuss developments in Lebanon after the defeat of rebel General Michel Aoun, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim and foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria met in Jeddah to discuss their efforts to end Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war. They discussed steps taken by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi's government to unite the country and impose order in areas captured from Aoun.

Gemayel's accused assassin recovers

BEIRUT (AP) — Habib Shartoumi, the accused assassin of President-elect Bashir Gemayel in 1982, is recovering from his seven years of solitary confinement, according to a report published Friday. Shartoumi, 32, was freed from prison in the town of Roumieh two days after government and Syrian forces crushed Michel Aoun's 11-month mutiny Oct. 13. Roumieh had been controlled by the rebel forces. "He is undergoing a series of medical check-ups. Light bothers his eyes and loud noise annoys him. He rarely talks," said Anton Gharayeb of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party to which Shartoumi belongs. Gharayeb, in an interview with the magazine Al-Shara, said Shartoumi's fellow party members stormed the Roumieh prison in the Christian heartland northeast of Beirut to set him free.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times جريدة يومية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية (الرأي)



Libya demands Italian compensation

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya marked the anniversary of its blackest day Friday,纪念其79年前的入侵。它要求赔偿，称“这是人类历史上的黑色一天”——即1911年利比亚从外部世界被剥夺了12小时。“我们正在等待这一天的真正复仇，”当地官员穆罕默德·阿卜杜拉说。“意大利必须承认利比亚人民的权利，并提供完整的赔偿。”利比亚有3,000人，妇女和儿童在1911年至1912年的意大利殖民统治下被驱逐。代表团向意大利大使馆递交了赔偿要求，但该事件去年年底时没有得到回应。利比亚每年都会纪念这一事件，而利比亚的白骨被包裹在黑布中，佩戴黑色丝带，上面印有黑色补丁。

Iraq said to have told France it is ready to discuss Kuwait

French officials deny knowledge of letter

PARIS (Agencies) — French Television said Friday Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had told French President Francois Mitterrand he was ready to discuss Kuwait, but French government officials said they could not confirm the report.

The La Cinq network said Saddam sent a letter to Mitterrand ahead of the French leader's scheduled talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Paris Sunday and Monday.

But a Mitterrand aide told Reuters he could "find no trace of a letter" from the Iraqi leader.

Iraqi Ambassador Abdur Razak Al Hashimi said he had no comment on the report or the French government reaction.

"The Iraqi president said he hoped Francois Mitterrand and Mikhail Gorbachev will spare no effort to find a solution to all the problems of the region, in particular the Palestinian problem," the television report said.

"He added that he is open to all ideas, to all comments by Mitterrand and Gorbachev on the situation in the region, including the problem of Kuwait."

It quoted Saddam as saying: "You will find Iraq ready henceforth to respond positively to the international community to find a

just and peaceful solution." It said Saddam had reiterated his "initiative of Aug. 12," which has been rejected by the international community. It calls for a global solution to all major Middle East problems but fails to promise an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait beforehand.

Saddam said France's position on the crisis was more constructive than that of the United States, according to La Cinq. The television aide said the Gulf crisis and the future of the Middle East would be major topics in talks with Gorbachev.

There has been speculation in Paris that their meeting may coincide with the return of all 327 French nationals held by Iraq for nearly three months. The French government denies any link between the two events.

The timing of the French nation's departure is in the hands of Iraqi authorities, who unilaterally announced the release on Tuesday and are providing an Iraqi Airways plane to take them home.

Asked if Paris and Moscow were preparing a new initiative on the Gulf, presidential spokesman Hubert Vedrine said: "You can't talk of a new initiative because there has been no com-

mon Franco-Soviet initiative in the Gulf crisis."

"All the positions of France are official and known," he told reporters at a briefing on Friday, adding that he could not predict in advance what Mitterrand and Gorbachev would say.

Vedrine said Mitterrand would also discuss the Gulf with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over lunch in Rome on Saturday, ahead of a European Community summit.

France and Britain have sent ships to the Gulf to enforce the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq and troops to Saudi Arabia to help the United States and its Arab allies.

Mitterrand's language towards Iraq has been firm but less confrontational than that of Thatcher or U.S. President George Bush and more in line with Gorbachev's avowed desire for a peaceful solution.

The Elysee Thursday denied a report in the International Herald Tribune that Mitterrand expected war in the Gulf before the U.S. mid-term election Nov. 6.

PLO role

In Amman a Palestinian official said Friday the Palestine Li-

(Continued on page 5)

Gorbachev rejects double standards

MADRID (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said in an interview published in Spain Friday that Moscow would not apply what he called double standards in considering the use of force against Iraq.

"It is unquestionable that aggression and violence, wherever they come from, must be condemned and checked by collective measures under U.N. auspices," he told the daily El País. The interview was published on the day Gorbachev began a visit to Spain.

Explaining why the Soviet Union had not sent troops to the Gulf, Gorbachev said: "Here we rule out double standards. Conflicts in the Near East and Far East, among them the old Palestinian problem, continue to get worse."

The Soviet Union has joined the United States in condemning Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait but has expressed unease about the U.S.-led military buildup.

The Kremlin has said it will consider sending troops only if a force is organised by the United Nations.

Gorbachev said the Gulf crisis was a test of the world's ability to enforce international law by joint action.

"The crisis in the Persian Gulf is a sort of alarm bell warning us that the risk of a return to times of the politics of force and aggression still exists," he said.

Gorbachev said the age of the superpowers was over but Washington and Moscow, with their economic and military strength, still had a special responsibility to ensure world peace.

"Neither we nor the Americans can simply reject this task without putting in danger general security," he added.

Gorbachev arrived here Friday for a three-day trip to Spain intended to gain support for his country's troubled economy.

It is Gorbachev's first trip abroad since he won the Nobel Peace Prize on Oct. 15 and the first by a Soviet head of state to Spain.

Soviet flags lined Madrid's avenues and large crowds turned out to see the Soviet leader.

Gorbachev's jet landed at Madrid airport under drizzling, leaden skies. He and his wife Raquel were greeted by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González.

Primakov convinced of peace prospects

CAIRO (Agencies) — Soviet peace envoy Yevgeny Primakov said after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Friday he believed a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis was possible.

"I am convinced that the Gulf crisis could be solved without recourse to military force," he told reporters after 75 minutes of talks with Mubarak.

His comments came as world oil markets rose on fear of fighting in the Gulf as Cairo and Washington said they would send more troops and heavy armour to the oil-rich region to bolster the anti-Iraqi, multinational alliance.

Primakov, on his second Gulf peace mission in a month, said he would head for Baghdad Sunday for more talks with Iraqi leaders on the crisis.

The envoy, an Arab specialist and a member of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's presidential council, said his talks with Mubarak showed that Egypt and the Soviet Union saw eye-to-eye on the Gulf crisis.

Primakov who met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad three weeks ago, also visited Syria, the United States, Italy, (Continued on page 5)

Admiral sees 6-month war, 40,000 U.S. casualties

LONDON (Agencies) — A U.S. admiral Friday predicted the United States would launch by mid-February a successful war against Saddam Hussein that would last at least six months and claim up to 40,000 U.S. casualties.

"It will be at least a six-month war," U.S. Admiral Gene Laroque said in a British Broadcasting Corporation radio interview from Washington.

The admiral said the Gulf crisis is a sort of alarm bell warning us that the risk of a return to times of the politics of force and aggression still exists," he said.

"We are going to be talking in the thousands of casualties, the high thousands," Laroque said. "I would think you might even consider 20, 30, 40 thousand U.S. casualties and of course British, French and other casualties....

"We will have all our forces in position and ready by the 15th of November, at the latest by the first of December," he said. "Then we will have to go ahead and launch the attack somewhere between there and the 15th of February."

By that time, support in the United States and internationally will have eroded, the troops will have lost their edge and it will be getting too close to Saudi Arabia's April sandstorms, he said.

"We know so very little about the Middle East and we somehow thought it would be a very simple

matter for us to go in and tell Saddam Hussein to leave and if he didn't leave we'd chase him out," Laroque said.

"But I think now we've sobered up a bit, taken a look at his military capability, and decided we need more forces in order to force him out," he said.

The United States might need another 50,000 troops, he said.

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(Continued on page 5)

Israel says troops, civilians can shoot Palestinians

Levy rejects U.N. censure; report exonerates police gunfire in Oct. 8 massacre in Jerusalem

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israeli occupation authority told soldiers and civilians Friday that they can shoot at Palestinians protesters and rejected a fresh Security Council resolution condemning Israel for not complying with an earlier resolution.

The advice was described as a reminder after an upscale in Arab-Jewish violence.

Israeli newspapers said Defense Minister Moshe Arens recently ordered troops combatting the 34-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories to shoot at Arabs throwing or even threatening to throw large stones.

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Jordan subjected to blockade, collective punishment — Abu Hassan

By Ziad Al Shiloh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen Association Mamoud Abu Hassan Friday said that Jordan was being subjected to a genuine blockade and collective punishment in view of its pan-Arab stand.

In an interview with the dailies Al Rai and the Jordan Times, Abu Hassan said the undecided economic blockade against Jordan and the illegal measures practised by the United States navy were aimed at pressuring Jordan into changing its pan-Arab stand on the Gulf crisis.

Abu Hassan refuted the ground used by the U.S. navy to ban ships carrying goods to Jordan's navy, according to Abu Hassan who said the goods are shipped to "blacklisted" Jordanian traders and importers.

Peace mission to Iraq deplores lack of baby food, describes mood as 'hopeful'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sixteen American peace activists passed through Amman Friday morning on their way home after a week-long trip to Baghdad.

Although the group was not accompanied by any of the Americans being held by Iraq, two members of the peace mission — a Catholic bishop, and an Egyptian-American businessman — stayed behind in Baghdad to continue to pursue the release of sick and elderly Americans. The group's leader, Douglass Hostetter, interviewed by the Jordan Times before returning to New York, predicted some of these Americans may be released as early as Sunday or Monday.

The peace delegation, consisting of Protestant and Catholic clergy, Vietnam veterans, and peace advocates, met with Iraqi officials, hospital workers, university students and farmers during their stay. They delivered nearly 500

kilograms of medical supplies to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Last week, the group delivered a smaller amount of medical supplies to evacuees being housed in Jordan.

The group also met with some of the Americans detained in Iraq. Clergy members on the mission held services for the Americans.

The mission was organised by the Fellowship for Reconciliation, a 75-year-old international pacifist organisation.

Hostetter said Iraq was experiencing shortages of baby food and called it "morally reprehensible to keep food and medical care from Iraqi civilians." He said his group would try to raise money in the U.S. to bring food and medicine to infants and nursing mothers in Iraq on a future mission.

Hostetter described Baghdad as swarming with Western peace missions. Swedish, Italian, Iraqi-American. He said his organisation would continue sending peace missions to the Gulf and on the Saudi border.

— to serve as "peace shields" against military action by the troops gathered in the Gulf.

While the group was not able to arrange for the immediate release of any Americans (14 were released to an Iraqi-American friendship society earlier this week), Bishop Michael Kinney of Juneau, Alaska, and Tarek Mohamed Al Henaidy, a Muslim businessman from Massachusetts, remained behind to pursue this goal.

Hostetter said Iraq was experiencing shortages of baby food and called it "morally reprehensible to keep food and medical care from Iraqi civilians." He said his group would try to raise money in the U.S. to bring food and medicine to infants and nursing mothers in Iraq on a future mission.

Hostetter described Baghdad as swarming with Western peace missions. Swedish, Italian, Iraqi-American. He said his organisation would continue sending peace missions to the Gulf and on the Saudi border.

But he also said Iraqis indicated a willingness to "fight to the end" if their country was attacked by the multi-national force massed in the Gulf and on the Saudi border.

What adds to the gravity of

the situation is the insistence of certain international parties and economic and petroleum interests to distort the facts and causes.

They depict the matter as jeopardising the possibilities of finding local peaceful solutions to the conflict; while evidence and facts confirm that the real motives behind this stubbornness are the serving of the objectives of such parties and interests alone with a total disregard to the consequences of the catastrophe that will befall the human beings and the environment, the future of generations, the lack of security and the increases in tension throughout the world.

"Should the evil forces be destined to threaten the future of world children and human environment — God forbid — the aftermath of the destruction resulting from a total military confrontation shall no doubt exceed human tragedies and economical losses to become a far-reaching environmental catastrophe encompassing the whole globe and affecting all, inclusive of the dangers of a nuclear fallout and biological and chemical weapons."

Following is the text of the petition to Adqa to forward to the U.N. secretary general:

"The Middle East region is nowadays exposed to the possibility of the eruption of a war in which mass destruction weapons may be used as a result of an unprecedented deployment of navies, bombers and military forces equipped with mass destruction weapons inclusive of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. The environmental consequences of such a war will be devastating in the Gulf region which will definitely lead to a catastrophic destruction of human life, natural resources and environment in a manner unwatched by humanity before."

"What adds to the gravity of

Former minister calls for private sector insurance plan

By Maher Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A former minister of health is calling for a new health insurance scheme that would insure people employed by the private sector who are not already covered by any type of insurance.

Dr. Zeid Hamzeh, an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist, the originator of the idea of having a "new" insurance programme said: "Now is as good a time as any to add a third type of health insurance to the two existing ones." "We need a third insurance programme to cover the uncovered," he added, referring to the people in the "private sector" who, unlike government and army employees, are uncovered by health insurance.

In the west of this unit, on the east bank of the wadi, two soundings were revealed stone walls carefully dressed. In the season of 1990 this area was excavated extensively. Consequently, the walls were identified as parts of a large building which measures about 18 metres in length and 9.5 metres in width. It consists of five rooms, one of which has semi-circular wall. This building seems to have had a public function, though definite evidence has not been found yet. The pottery sherd suggested that the building was founded at the end of the Hellenistic period and continued till late Roman period. Moreover, it was revealed that there lay another building which was made of undressed stones, though a very small part was brought to light so far.

The results obtained during the first three campaigns are therefore extremely encouraging. Besides the continuation of the excavations inside the necropolis area and the church, it is necessary carry out extensive excavations in the northern area where the existence of building complexes was revealed.

Hamzeh maintained that the insurance programme was not something that was developed

from nothing. "We already have two different types of insurance in the country that have worked well," he said.

Since two per cent of government employees salaries was set aside for health insurance, this "third" insurance system must follow the same principle, Hamzeh asserted.

Company employees could pay two per cent each month for health insurance and employers would be responsible for the rest if the bill exceeded the two per cent, he explained.

Kawar said that if his employees were ready to give up part of their salaries for health insurance, he would be ready to introduce the idea of insurance package deals.

"Those covered will then use the medical facilities in the private sector," Kawar said.

Some people are under the impression that special facilities must be built before the "third" system is adopted," the former health minister said. "But we already have doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, and laboratories in the private sector."

"Those covered by the "third" system will use the existing facilities for treatment," he added.

Dr. Zuhair Malhas an inter-

national and also former minister of health, said the programme should be adopted and it will be a success, especially with the escalating costs of medical treatment.

"The cost of medication and treatment is outrageous,"

Malhas said.

"An estimated 99 per cent of Jordan's population is unable to pay private hospitals and medical fees."

There are many people who are ready to pay any price for treatment, they face a medical crisis, Malhas said. But once these people are treated and get their medical bills, their

financial crisis begins."

Malhas insisted that a political decision is necessary for this programme to be instated.

"All decisions are political,"

Malhas said. "The economic and financial factors must then help in applying these decisions."

Mohammed Al Saqaf, general-manager of the Social Security Corporation, said that the management is studying this programme.

"We must define all the necessary requirements that would make this national goal possible," Saqaf said. He said the study would take at least six months to finish.

"The management feels that if this new programme is adopted, it will be instated gradually," Saqaf said.

He said the programme could start insuring company employees, or retirees, and would then extend to include all those in the private sector who are not presently insured.

According to Hamzeh, there is no ideal health insurance system in any country in the world. "We don't need to copy any country's health insurance system," he said. "Nationalisation of medicine, for example, has failed even in socialist countries."

In Britain, there are 20 different health insurance systems in the private sector alone, he said. "What is suitable for one country is not necessarily the ideal for another," Hamzeh pointed out.

He maintains that legislative action is necessary to make this medical programme possible.

"I was a politician but couldn't instate this programme," Hamzeh said. "All it will take is one legislative action."

"Unless it is imposed by law that every employer must have medical insurance for his employees, this programme will never be adopted," he said.

Masri describes U.N. resolution 673 as weak

AMMAN (J.T.) — Security Council resolution 673 passed in the wake of Israel's massacre of more than 20 Arabs in Jerusalem was a poor resolution in general, and failed to define a specific task for a U.N. enquiry commission that was supposed to visit the occupied Arab lands to investigate into the massacre, according to Taher Al Masri, chairman of the foreign affairs committee at the Lower House of Parliament.

"This resolution is weaker than the previous one which Israel had rejected and after which it declared its total refusal to allow such an inquiry commission to come to the occupied Arab lands," Masri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said Israel was openly and flagrantly violating the U.N. principles and defying the world community and the international legitimacy at a time when the council was allowing naval forces to impose an embargo against Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Masri, a former foreign minis-

ter, said that the double standard of the council was unacceptable and regrettable and caused the council to lose credibility, following the example of the United States in this respect.

Masri said that the British ambassador at the United Nations was instrumental in issuing a weak resolution which rendered the council impotent in the face of Israel's defiance."

The deported mayor of Arab Jerusalem, Rawhi Al Khatib, called on the Security Council to issue a resolution imposing sanctions on Israel for refusing to conform to the will of the international community.

"The Security Council has come under the influence and total hegemony of the United States and the Arab countries in general, and the Palestinians in particular, can expect nothing in their favour," Khatib said.

He said that the Arab and Muslim nations have no alternative but to unify their stand and confront their common enemy.

Salah pursues efforts to obtain help for Jordan

NEW YORK (J.T.) — Jordan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Abdullah Salah had a meeting Thursday evening with the current president of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the council's decisions about compensating Jordan which sustained severe damage to its economy as a result of its implementation of Security Council resolution 661.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Friday that that Salah had discussed the amount of compensation to be forthcoming and the extent of damage to Jordan's economy as presented by a report submitted to the council members by Jean Ripert, a special envoy of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who visited Jordan recently.

Jean Ripert met with Jordanian leaders and was briefed on the extent of damage brought about by the embargo against Iraq.

Salah's talks with the Security Council president and other

Ministry tries to solve dilemma of Jordanian students in Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Higher Education has not been notified by the cultural attaché at Jordan's embassy in Cairo about a final decision concerning the acceptance of Jordanian students in Egyptian universities. Despite this, the ministry is still trying to ensure acceptances, according to Ministry of Higher Education Secretary-General Ahmad Al Basheir.

The Ministry of Higher Education is entrusted with the task of arranging acceptances for at least 300 Jordanian students annually at Egyptian universities in accordance with a bilateral agreement. But this year only 120 Jordanians applied; their names have been sent to Cairo for approval by the concerned authorities there, according to ministry officials here. They said that at least 3,000 Jordanian students were currently enrolled at Egyptian universities.

Bashaireh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday that the Ministry of Higher Education was doing all it can to speed up the acceptance of Jordanian students.

Bashaireh's statement followed reports from Cairo that Jordanian

students were being barred from entering Egypt. The Egyptian embassy in Amman has been approached by the foreign ministry to facilitate procedures for the students; the cultural attaché at the embassy said that he was in contact with Cairo over the issue.

But, according to a report by Associated Press (AP) agency from Cairo quoting Egyptian education ministry officials, students from Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Palestinians and Sudan will not be allowed to continue their higher education at Egyptian universities.

The report said the Egyptian authorities justified the decision by saying that these students come from countries which are supportive of Iraq, and their presence in Egypt was a possible security risk. Arabs and other foreigners normally pay about \$350 a year to the Egyptian government in return for acceptance at Egyptian universities. This does not include the tuition.

According to the Cairo report, students already enrolled will not be dropped, but those applying for the first time will not be allowed entry and enrollment.

King congratulates Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, congratulating him on his country's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Austrian people further progress and prosperity.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

* Exhibition entitled "Science and Technology Parks" at the British Council.

FILMS

* Italian film entitled "Il campione" at Haya Art Centre — 7:30 p.m.

* Opera film festival (organised jointly by Goethe Institute and the British Council and introduced in Arabic and English by Nuri Raheeb at the British Council); Saturday Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata" will be screened at 8:00 p.m.

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Racism or hypocrisy?

THE MOST recent U.N. Security Council Resolution Number 673, on the Jerusalem massacre that took place two weeks ago is in essence a kind of glove approach to naked Israeli defiance of the council's earlier resolution, Number 672, which called for the dispatch of a U.N. fact-finding mission to investigate the atrocity. The text of the new resolution is so weak that it just appeals to Tel Aviv to reconsider its rejection of Resolution 672. In it, there is not the slightest hint that sanctions of any kind would be applied against Israel should the Shamir government persist in flouting the will of the international community. This is all of course in marked contrast with the council's approach to the Gulf crisis where the U.N. viewed its series of resolutions on the Kuwaiti situation as sacred decisions requiring full and faithful implementation by Iraq at the risk of not only total economic blockade but also war.

There is no denying that the Gulf crisis is distinguishable from the Jerusalem massacre in which tens of Palestinians were shot to death in cold blood by Israeli soldiers. But the heart of the matter in both cases is the same, except perhaps in that Jerusalem has now been an occupied and annexed city for weeks but for more than two decades. Moreover Security Council resolutions are equally binding.

It would be interesting to gauge how the Security Council is going to deal with Israel's latest rejection of yet another resolution on the Jerusalem massacre. Now that Tel Aviv has openly declared to friend and foe alike that it will simply ignore Resolution 673 as it did to Resolution 672 before it is up to the permanent members of the council to show the world how deep its commitment to its own resolutions in fact is. The least we should expect from the council under the circumstances is to be self-respecting enough to apply sanctions equally vehemently against Israel.

And as if it was not sufficient for Washington to veto any language in Resolution 673 that would even hint that such sanctions might be contemplated, it has also approved recently another fat aid package to Israel that topped last year's by no less than \$700 million. No wonder then that Tel Aviv feels confident enough to stand up to anything that the U.N. decides.

President Bush had personally appealed to Shamir to accept the U.N. fact-finding mission before SCR 673 was adopted, but he was rebuffed. How, with this in mind, could anyone expect Saddam Hussein to trust the Americans with ever pursuing a fair and objective policy towards the Arabs, we do not know. What we are positive about, however, is that if a Bush appeal, as opposed to threats, was directed towards Saddam the response would have been so much different. Alas, the American president & co. do not want to hear of such difference — not in nuance but of substance. Shoot the aggressor if he is Arab. Put him on the back if he is Israeli or Jewish. This is the lowest form of racism that any American can practise. It is not just double standards.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY IMPOSING a siege on the occupied Arab territories, the Israelis have completed the chain of "siege conspiracy" imposed first on Iraq, then Jordan and — on the occupied Arab lands, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The siege on the Arab towns in the Israeli-held territories forms the most severe action yet to be taken by the Zinnists and could result in an all-out unprecedented confrontation in the life of the intifada, the paper said. While this is happening, the American administration is trying to busy itself with the futile debate at the Security Council to convince Israel to accept Resolution 672, which has been rejected by the Israeli government in defiance of the international legitimacy which the United States was pretending to protect and uphold, the paper continued. Washington, said the paper, did not of course remember and does not want to remember the kind of international legitimacy which it resorted to in order to secure Security Council sanctions on Iraq when it comes to the ongoing atrocities in the Arab territories. The sieges on the occupied Arab territories and Iraq are closely linked, and the one imposed on Jordan is intended to force this country to kneel and succumb to the will of the foreign powers and accept their presence in the Arab lands, added the paper. This dangerous situation, said the paper, calls for vigilance on the part of the Arab countries and requires a concerted effort not only to end the siege on Iraq and Jordan but also to extend a helping hand to the Palestinians to help them determine their own future on their liberated land.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily urges the concerned authorities to be flexible in dealing with the question of energy-saving measures and in applying government orders to cut down on energy spending. Sabah Abdal Samad admits that there is real need to reduce energy consumption, but the measures being applied on the streets are not effective. The writer notes that public safety requirements warrant that all streets are reasonably lit, but not dark as is the case in many of the streets in the poor districts. Bends and curves in the road specially require strong light so that no road accidents can occur, he adds. In some cases the authorities have removed lamps from streets which are already poorly lit making the place dark and bleak and not saving much of energy, the writer continues. "We do not want to see dark streets becoming darker lest we do harm to public safety, and no one would benefit should unpleasant things happen to people in the dark," he said. By lighting the streets reasonably enough the authorities will be contributing to providing protection and safety to the public, he said.

In search of an elegant solution

By Izzat Dajani

ELEGANCE is not a term restricted to style, fashion, general appearance or good looks. It best expresses the outcome of successful negotiations whereby each party feels it has maximised its gains, maximised the adversary's satisfaction in exchange for long-run returns, minimised conflict and minimised personal losses. Hence, the result is an "elegant solution," a term devised by Harvard Professor David Kneale.

The Gulf crisis is an ideal case whereby a solution acceptable to all parties concerned is most needed to avoid a destructive war. In negotiations, the primary requirement is to identify the key actors or players since the best course of action for each player depends on what other players do. This is the basic rule in "game theory". The Gulf crisis is currently a dispute between Iraq and the USA-led coalition. However, the USA remains to be the key player in the conflict with almost no role for the Kuwaitis, though it is the latter's country that is disputed. It is then correct to assume that it is an American-Iraqi dispute, trivialised by concentrating on personal conflict as in Bush-Saddam. The issues involved are far greater than personality cults, though these persons are key and their involvement is essential in the search for an elegant solution.

One of the main obstacles in the Gulf crisis has been the American response. The USA demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops. It led a coalition in cornering Iraq and making it impossible for the latter to withdraw. The USA thus assumed a zero-sum option.

This is extremely hazardous and is usually the final resolve when negotiations break. Yet the USA opted for this from the beginning. It is worthy to note here that the strategy of pure conflict precludes any meeting of the minds, whereas the strategy of coordination involves trying to understand the other's point of view, searching for shared clues. Iraq tried in counter-attack this zero-sum option by offering some concessions such as the release of a number of Europeans and Americans, trapped

in Kuwait and Iraq, and announcing its early intentions of withdrawing from Kuwait. It also offered a withdrawal in exchange for the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territory, and Israel and Syria from Lebanon.

Though concessions are important symbolically as indicators of where expectations should converge, the USA insisted on a restrictive agenda of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, as it is unable to negotiate certain points where Israel is involved and in face of the powerful Israeli lobby AIPAC in the U.S. Another point to add here is that a negotiator's art must include an ability to anticipate the other side's decision-making process, and hopefully to influence it. This means taking into account contrasts in the "culture" of decision-making, as well as their personal styles. In our opinion, both Iraq and the U.S. scored badly here. Iraq failed to influence the Americans by prolonging its message and making them too long for the other party to follow. It thus allowed its opposition to use certain excerpts leading to the loss of the message. The Iraqi attitude carried great emotions with it, factors not viewed favourably in the West. On the other hand the U.S. failed to understand the emotional commitment of the Iraqi people behind their leadership. Also it failed to appreciate the influence of various members of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council on the decision-making. Again the American message is lost in the dark tunnel of the unknown.

The U.S. is employing what is known as "competitive tactics" by imposing time pressure and appearing firm. Its high demands and very slow concessions are motivated by concern about position loss and image loss. It is concerned about its constituents and allies if it begins to look weak. There seems to be a complete lack of concessional exchange and problem solving discussions, whereby in the former, both Iraq and U.S. need to move toward one another on a single dimension or swap concessions on different dimensions. In the latter, they both need to share information about goals and priorities in search of an option that will satisfy both parties' needs, i.e. integrative agree-

ment.

This brings us to an important issue in complex negotiations: third party intervention. It usually has the function of resolving a difficult controversy that is dangerous to continue. It is the process known as "mediation." France and the Soviet Union seem to be the most suitable to assume this role. Britain's attitude, best looked at as pathetic, makes it an unacceptable mediator as is the case of many other nations. France's performance, in particular, is spectacular in this crisis. It managed to stand firm, upset all parties, please all parties, and yet earn everybody's respect and admiration. It understands the rules of the game, diverts from them when it can, and sticks to them whenever the situation demands. France is now looked at favourably by the Iraqis, Americans, Europeans (possibly excluding envious Britain), both Arab camps and Israel. The Soviet Union can carry the assurances that Iraq needs in its negotiations. Mediation is not an easy task by anybody's standards, since the mediators have virtually no power. If they make a suggestion for terms of settlement or if they express their own views regarding the conduct of the parties, these expressions carry no weight beyond the force of their own persuasive impact. Mediators need here to identify the demands and put them in categories, a process that involves placement of priorities, some demands being more important than others. These include: the withdrawal of Iraq from most Kuwaiti territory; the fate of the Al-Sabah family; the size of the future Kuwaiti army; Iraq's method of control over the strategic islands under dispute; the Remala oil field; the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states; the presence of an "Arab" peace keeping mission along the Iraq-Kuwait border; the abolition of all Security Council resolutions against Iraq; the start of negotiations under an international umbrella, to secure Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state; Syria; Lebanon; and so on. Thus the mediators have a tremendous task in categorising all the re-

lated issues and tackling them in order of priority, ensuring that the agenda remains restrictive, in order not to get lost in too much detail and too wide an issue.

An important function of mediation remains to help take heat off the parties. It may also allow some heat to develop because it may promote settlement. However, mediators need somehow to learn the limits beyond which the sides will not go. As most mediators will not recommend settlement terms unless asked to do so by the parties it is estimated in this crisis that mediators, such as France with great reliance on responsibly-led countries such as Jordan, will inject viewpoints into the negotiations making them more effective. Such injections might be critical for face-saving and narrowing the issues. Hence, while mediators have no power to force parties to settle, they can exert strong influence.

This leads us to a vital element in the current crisis that needs discussion. This is the issue of entrapment. To exemplify this, one type of conflict in which entrapment commonly occurs is an "anction" in which bidding typically escalates at increasing cost to the participants. Gambling, similarly, is another conflict situation in which entrapment is likely to occur — particularly when the gambler wishes to recoup losses he has already incurred and therefore decides to roll the dice "just one more time." In both examples, the vital parameter is "time" which can be an investment and an expense. The passage of time is an investment to the extent that it is seen as increasing the likelihood of goal attainment, as found by Professor J. Rubin of Tufts University. Iraq thus feels that time is on its side and eventually the international community will accept its annexation of Kuwait. However, as time passes, the cost associated with continued waiting increases, but so does the presumed proximity to the goal. Hence, the greater the passage of time, the greater the pressure to act decisively — either by withdrawing or by committing itself to remain in the situation. The danger lies when the decision to wait has been made, the tendency to approach increases

more rapidly than the tendency to avoid and entrapment becomes likely to occur. The U.S. became entrapped by assuming the leading "police" role in the Gulf crisis. It took on a zero-sum option, it formed an international coalition versus Iraq, and it committed itself to no negotiation or concession. Hence, its image is directly connected to this, and the more time passes the greater the commitment, and the closer it feels to attaining its motive, and the more the entrapment. Iraq on the other hand is also entrapped as its whole image is attached to its annexation of Kuwait, and the longer it holds to Kuwait, the more its defiance and the greater its entrapment. The main consolation here is that as both parties are entrapped, there is more likelihood that both have vested interest in some measure of conciliation within a time frame to get out of this and reach a working solution.

Roger Fisher in his book "Getting to Yes" wrote about a vital element in negotiations called BATNA (Best Alternative to Negotiated Agreement). BATNA is a measure for agreements that will protect one against accepting an agreement it should reject, or rejecting an agreement it should accept. It is a standard against which any proposed agreement should be measured. BATNA gives one the advantage of being flexible enough to permit the exploration of imaginative solutions which might meet one's bottom line and satisfy its interests. Each party must have carefully thought about what other alternatives there are if it fails to reach an agreement — having no other alternatives in mind is like negotiating with closed eyes. It must be noted that the better your BATNA, the greater your power. Iraq needs to consider the U.S.'s BATNA. It needs to think about the alternatives that the U.S. might have. It needs to convert the most promising into practical options and select tentatively the option that seems the best. The U.S. is in a tricky situation. There is rising concern about the real and true motive behind its involvement in the Gulf. "Irangate" is becoming an issue that is likely to embarrass the

administration as it had prior knowledge of Iraq's imminent takeover of Kuwait but opted to remain silent. It appears that the U.S. encouraged Iraq in its action so as to apply its beat and condemnation to Iraq in order to dilute its military might, and hence secure oil and safeguard Israel's security and best interests. The American economy is in shambles and will suffer a great setback if the Gulf crisis is prolonged. The U.S.-led coalition is unlikely to last forever. If war erupts, its scale of destruction is beyond imagination with imminent world recession. Hence, the U.S. has vital interests in reaching an elegant solution. It needs to consider its BATNA.

Finally, our hope is that both Iraq and the U.S. consider their many negotiating options. They need to come to terms with identifying the "possible" and categorising it above the "ideal." It is after all we who live in the world of the possible that is far away from any ideal. In this article, we did not recommend any one solution, but we drew a plan of different negotiating scenarios so as to reach elegant solution, the elements of which would include:

— The solution is better than any party's BATNA.

— All relevant parties are committed to making the solution work.

— The solution produces a good working relationship.

— The solution is appropriate to long term goals.

— The solution is feasible for implementation.

— There is clear understanding between parties as to the meaning of the solution.

— No joint interests are remaining to be addressed.

— The process by which agreement was achieved is seen by all parties to have been fair.

May I leave you with the following excerpt by Jeffrey Pfeffer in "Power in Organizations":

"Power is perpetuated through commitment, although commitment creates resistance to change. It is hard to go back on choices made publicly."

U.S., Israel do not see eye-to-eye

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON.—Israel's relationship with the United States, its guardian ally, has degenerated into a bitter slanging match, causing serious concern to officials on both sides.

Israeli diplomats and U.S. officials who had argued for months that the relationship was merely passing through one of its periodic bumpy periods, with nothing fundamentally wrong, have now dropped that pretence.

"Let's face it, trust and confidence on both sides have been degraded to the point that channels of communication are just not functioning," a Bush administration official said.

With the current cast of characters on either side, I just don't see things returning to an even keel very quickly."

An Israeli source complained: "It's as if we were broadcasting on different wavelengths. There seems to be an understanding of our viewpoint at all."

Officials on both sides now acknowledge what has been hinted at for months: President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir cannot abide each other.

Meanwhile, Israel's strategic importance has been diluted by the end of the cold war.

Bush and especially Baker — who has never visited Israel and shows no sign of wanting to — clearly do not share this gut feeling of sympathy and solidarity with the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, Israel's strategic importance has been diluted by the end of the cold war.

An Israeli source complained: "It's as if we were broadcasting on different wavelengths. There seems to be an understanding of our viewpoint at all."

Officials on both sides say they would like to make a fresh start. They emphasise the importance of returning to private diplomatic exchanges.

In the current inflamed situation, that may be difficult. Despite agreeing earlier this week to accept a U.N. team to investigate the Jerusalem incident, hit Israeli especially hard.

They took it to mean there was almost no limit as to how far Washington would go to placate Arab allies and maintain the united front against Saddam.

"The first vote we could understand even if we did not agree with it," an Israeli source said.

"But the second is merely

pandering to Arab extremists and inviting more and more anti-Israel resolutions.

"Eventually, the United States will be forced to use its veto,

anyway."

Israel's position in Congress remains strong. Its annual three billion-dollar aid allocation was approved by a large majority this

week and there were overwhelming votes to grant it more military aid to help it face the new Iraqi threat.

The American Jewish lobby

remains a factor the Bush administration cannot ignore, although its leaders are musing their criticism of the president during the Gulf crisis.

Americans 'plumb fed up' with Washington politics

By Scott McCartney
Associated Press

MESQUITE, Texas — Retired sheet metal worker Ben McAbee

knows politics is rarely pretty, but lately, he says, what's been going on in Washington has been downright disgusting.

"I think people are getting plumb fed up with it," McAbee said.

From California, where 20-year-old Monique Osborne said simply, "I think it's way bad," to Maryland, where Vincent Broco

described the U.S. government as a "circus," anti-Washington sentiment is running deeper than ever.

Many everyday Americans interviewed around the country this week said they were following the budget battle closely, and didn't like what they saw. From Bush down, no one appeared immune to wrath. Politicians' performances seem to have gotten worse over the years, people said, and this year is the worst yet.

"I'm pretty upset about it actually," said Neil Tucker, a 34-year-old commercial real estate broker in Baltimore. "We elect these people to represent us and they're more concerned with their special interests and getting re-elected than voting their convictions."

The showdown over a new budget between Congress and

President George Bush has outraged many voters in advance of the Nov. 6 elections, the district of Columbia is dismissed as the district of contempt.

"They would have to clean Washington right out completely and start over," said Don Hart, who was running errands last night in downtown Traverse City, Michigan. "Disgusted" isn't the word. "Mad" would be a better one."

Polls show public confidence in government is at a two-decade low, and Bush's approval ratings at their lowest levels of his presidency.

Congress' approval ratings are even lower — a Newsweek Magazine poll found 52 per cent would be willing to fire the whole Congress. And a recent ABC news/Washington Post

First call for children — a world responsibility

Her Majesty Queen Noor talks about the World Summit on Children

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Our children must be given a better future. These innocent dependent souls should have a life of joy and peace," Her Majesty Queen Noor said, upon her return from the World Summit for Children that was held in New York last month. The summit intended to secure the rights of children and to reduce child mortality estimated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to be 40,000 children a day, was attended by 75 heads of states. It was organised by six countries: Canada, Sweden, Pakistan, Mali, Mexico and Egypt.

During the summit, world leaders were required to sign a convention on the rights of children which had come into effect Sept. 2, 1990 as binding international law. Many countries signed it, including Jordan, making it the fastest human rights convention to become law. As representative of His Majesty King Hussein, I signed the convention. There was a child witness from each country who also signed it. A Jordanian child witnessed my signing it," Her Majesty told

the Jordan Times in an exclusive interview. She also added that "... the government of Jordan has endorsed the convention. I anticipate that it will soon be incorporated in the Jordanian legislature." Asked what measures will be taken if any of the countries that signed the convention violated the rights of its children, the Queen said, "there is no disciplinary force, the heads of states will have to answer to their people and the existing organs of the international community."

The Queen was very impressed by the summit's emphasis on giving children a first priority in what she referred to as its motto "first call for children." "First call for children should also include national resources. First call on the commitment of resources in the international community should be to address the underlying causes of children's suffering," the Queen noted.

According to Queen Noor, the summit's nature did not allow for special discussions of the Middle East, since certain themes which include ensuring child survival, protecting children, and enhancing child development were the focus of discussions in the summit.

None the less the Queen stressed that many countries, including Jordan, presented their points on children in document form. Her Majesty also said that the Tunisian representative in the summit read a statement derived from the declaration of the Arab child, which was drafted in Tunis. "It (the declaration) highlighted the need to protect the children of the intifada, Lebanon and other war stricken areas in the region against the scourges and pains of wars and armed conflicts," Queen Noor said.

The Queen also said that she was able to meet privately with heads of state to discuss the Jordanian position in specific and the Middle East region in general in regards to children.

Through private conversations with heads of state, I was able to specifically address the very special situation of children not only in Jordan but in the region," the Queen said.

Her Majesty also discussed the recent Gulf crisis and the need to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis in order to ensure the welfare of the region and the world. "Children not only in the Middle East but all over the world will be affected. Jordan, politically, has been trying to emphasise

that the escalation of the tension in the area is dangerous, not only because it is having a devastating effect on Jordan and the Middle East region, but also repercussions on other countries, especially those of the developing world," the Queen said. Her Majesty also pointed out the effect the United Nations embargo against Iraq, had on Jordan's economy. "Those to whom I spoke and with whom I discussed the impact of the embargo on our children were all very much concerned about the crisis, and were very receptive to our point of view," the Queen said.

Queen Noor also tackled the problem of the evacuees who fled Kuwait to Jordan after Aug. 2 invasion. "Many were surprised by the economic burden the evacuees had on the resources in Jordan. There was general ignorance of what Jordan had committed itself to. Jordan has given so much without any meaningful compensation," Her Majesty said. Queen Noor also praised the abilities of Jordanian children in comprehending the problems of the region. "The children are very articulate and politically aware. They are also very knowledgeable and sensitive, and have a great deal to offer," Her Majesty said.

Queen Noor also noted that Queen Noor also noted that

Jordan was chosen as one of three countries to represent the region in the Education for All Conference taking place in Thailand. "We have the highest literacy rate in the region, the highest immunisation rate, the lowest child mortality rate, and the superior diarrhoea control. We are also considered a superior model in primary school enrolment, for males and females," the Queen said. Her Majesty then added, that Jordan's situation has been affected by today's crisis, and that it should work harder to face the challenges to sustain and improve the progress Jordan has been witnessing. UNICEF has already reported an increase of malnourished children. There is a fear of an increase in the drop-out rate of girls in primary schools, a decrease in females who seek out prenatal help, and a decrease in the number of women who are left unattended during labour and birth," the Queen noted.

"...We should strive to give our children a chance to live in peace and harmony, and to mature in security and stability," Queen Noor concluded, echoing a message by His Majesty King Hussein at the World Summit for Children.



Aziz assails U.S., Britain

(Continued from page 1)

it?" said Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Subah, according to the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat.

"As a citizen and responsible official, I am ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of regaining my land and liberating it, and that is how each ordinary Kuwaiti thinks," Sheikh Saad, who is also the crown prince, was reported as saying.

According to the newspaper, Sheikh Saad left the door open for negotiations with Iraq on disputed islands, but only after its

withdrawal from his country, according to reports published Friday.

Asked about the future of Warba and Bubiyan islands, which have long been sought by Iraq, Sheikh Saad said "there can be no talk with the aggressor on our land and people as long as his forces occupy our country."

He added that any dialogue would have to be within a pan-Arab framework under the auspices of the Arab League.

Iraq has claimed the two islands to give it an expanded outlet to the Gulf, and unsuccessfully tried to lease them during the eight-year Gulf war.

Primakov convinced of prospects

(Continued from page 1)

France and Britain recently. Abdul Meguid said the Soviet envoy does not appear to be trying to mediate between Iraq and other Arab countries.

"I don't think he (Primakov) is on a mission of mediation between Arab countries and Iraq," Abdul Meguid told reporters. "He's trying to find a peaceful solution and to avert war, and we are all attempting that."

On his earlier visit to Baghdad, Primakov reportedly persuaded Iraq to allow evacuation of an estimated 5,000 Soviet citizens stranded in Iraq.

Mubarak is expected to visit Saudi Arabia.

On Wednesday, Primakov refused to say if Iraq had offered a partial withdrawal from Kuwait.

"I am not a messenger," he told Reuters Wednesday when asked if he would deliver Saddam messages from Western and Arab states he visited in recent weeks.

Mubarak has proposed an all-Arab defence arrangement for the Gulf region after the Gulf

crisis is settled, published reports said Friday.

Non-Arab countries "should only help in supplying arms that are requested," the Egyptian leader said in statements carried by the Gulf papers, Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej and the United Arab Emirates' Al Khaleej.

Mubarak reportedly made the comments to Egyptian editors on the conclusion of a four-day Gulf tour which took him to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

Mubarak reportedly made the proposal to Gulf leaders.

He also told them that "Egypt was fully prepared to cooperate with them on whatever visualisation" they agreed upon for the post-crisis security arrangements of the region.

The Gulf reports quoted Mubarak as offering Saudi Arabia an additional armoured brigade and warplanes, including U.S.-made F-16s and French-made Mirages.

Beirut

(Continued from page 1)
to be carried out "in the coming few days."

The minister said three Palestinian refugee camps would not be included in the plan, but Palestinian arms would not be allowed outside the shantytowns.

In other Lebanon-related development:

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) condemned the United States Thursday for saying Palestinian groups in Lebanon should be disbanded as part of the Taif peace plan.

"The PLO vigorously condemns this U.S. interference in a Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese affair," the PLO news agency WAFA said, quoting an official source.

The U.S. ambassador to Syria, Edward Djerejian, told a news briefing Wednesday that Palestinian armed groups had to disband under the Taif peace agreement.

WAFA said Djerejian had "set himself up as U.S. high commissioner for Syria and Lebanon and interfered in defining the quality of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon."

The Middle East Council of Churches Friday appealed for the reconciliation of the Christian and Muslim communities of Lebanon.

The statement was issued following the Oct. 13 defeat of the mutiny by Lebanon's Christian army commander Michel Aoun and the reunification of the Christian and Muslim sectors of Beirut.

Lebanon's Maronite Catholic Church Thursday demanded the release of rebel officers detained by the Syrian army after the defeat of Aoun.

— Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy warned Syria Thursday not to jeopardise Israeli "interests" in Lebanon.

Mubarak is said to have expressed the view that the Iraqi

Admiral predicts 6-month war

(Continued from page 1)

leader was ruthless, cold and calculating, but not mad," Press Association reported.

Heath is understood to have told them (the lawmakers) that Saddam Hussein had warned that the West should not attack Iraq and that he was prepared to use chemical weapons and to ill-treat hostages," Press Association reported.

In other Gulf-related developments:

— Iraq's chemical warfare capability is exaggerated and Saudi Arabia has the potential to repel any attack, a Saudi general was quoted as saying on Friday.

"As a military man who has been in the army for more than 20 years, I tell you honestly that Iraq's chemical weapons are not as people imagine," Major General Turki Ben Hudeijan was quoted as saying by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Bayan.

"The Saudi forces and the joint troops have technical capability to shoot down any Iraqi target carrying such materials whether through aircraft, missiles or other means," he said.

Hudeijan is the commander of the 10,000-strong joint Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) troops currently stationed in northern Saudi Arabia.

— Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, who met with Saddam Hussein earlier this week, has reportedly told British legislators that the Iraqi President told him he is ready to use chemical weapons if attacked.

Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, reported that Heath was understood to have made his remarks to a group of rank-and-file Conservative Party lawmakers at a private meeting Thursday.

"Mr. Heath is said to have expressed the view that the Iraqi

under the prevailing conditions was justified," it said.

The inquiry criticised national and local police chiefs for failing to act on information and send sufficient forces to the area where thousands of Arabs had gathered fearing ultra-nationalist Jews would attempt to lay a cornerstone for the building of a Jewish temple.

It did not answer charges by Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups that police shot bursts of automatic fire rather than single, aimed rounds.

Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups have accused the police of firing indiscriminately and without justification.

Jonathan Kattab of the Palestinian Al Haq human rights group called the report a whitewash.

"I think the Palestinian community expected a whitewash but this exceeds all our expectations," he told Reuters.

"The facts have been established to be incontrovertible both by (TV) film and the testimony of witnesses but this so-called report ignores them," he said.

Kattab said the report did not tackle the use of automatic weapons against civilians, the firing at fleeing Palestinians and a medical personnel and ambulances.

Israeli leaders rebuffed the second condemnation in two weeks by the U.N. Council for the killings and played down a growing rift with the United States.

They again rejected the U.N. investigation, saying it would threaten Israeli "sovereignty" over Jerusalem.

Foreign Minister David Levy Thursday rejected the latest Security Council censure of Israel.

Israelis can shoot protesters

(Continued from page 1)

and urged the world to focus on enforcing U.N. demands that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait.

Levy made the statement in a meeting with foreign diplomats a day after the Security Council criticised Israel for rejecting a U.N. investigation into the Oct. 8 killings.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, the local branch of Fatah distributed a leaflet condemning attacks on Jews and saying that Jewish and Arab blood should not be spilled.

"Blood is blood, with the same colour, and there is no difference in religions," it said. The leaflet was apparently meant to counter calls from Muslim fundamentalists for attacks on Israelis.

Levy's talk with diplomats, including U.S. Ambassador William

Iraq said ready to discuss

(Continued from page 1)

Cheyssou, Bauchard said, held talks with Aziz in his capacity as European Parliament official, not an envoy of the French government.

Bauchard also confirmed that Edgar Pisani, a special adviser to Mitterrand, had met with members of the PLO leadership in Tunis last week. He declined to give further details.

Abdul Rahim said the Aziz-Cheyssou meeting was part of "the PLO's intensive effort to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis."

He said the meeting with Pisani and talks earlier with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas "indicate the seriousness of the French effort to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis."

"The PLO's efforts and contacts aim at initiating a negotiation process between Iraq and the parties involved in the crisis," Abdul Rahim said.

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Holyfield gets heavyweight title after knocking down Douglas

LAS VEGAS (Agencies) — An over-weight and under-powered James "Buster" Douglas suffered some rough treatment from the critics after being knocked out in the third round of his heavyweight title fight by fellow American Evander Holyfield.

It appeared Thursday night that a much weaker opponent could have stopped the floppy, 246-pound (112 kilogramme) Douglas who entered the ring outside the Mirage Hotel.

The former champion was fat and his punches were way off the mark. Surprisingly, his body appeared much slippier than it had at the weigh-in Wednesday when he stunned the crowd by coming in more than 10 pounds (4.5 kilogrammes) heavier than expected.

"Buster Douglas was disgraceful," said veteran trainer Eddie Futch, much respected for his honesty and talent at assessing fighters.

"His timing was off, his jab had no snap... (his performance) was outlandish. He only landed one good punch in three rounds."

Finch suggested that Douglas might have decided that his \$24-million cut for the fight was not a bad cushion for a career change.

After Douglas crumpled to the canvas, where he was counted out at nine minutes and 10 seconds into the third round: "He was rubbing his face, then looking at his gloves for blood, which shows he was perfectly conscious. He could have got up and he chose not to do so," Futch said.

But earlier, referee Mills Lane said he thought Douglas was hurt.

Douglas, at 1.93 metres nearly five centimetres taller than Holyfield, was nowhere near the intensely-focused, sharp puncher who took Mike Tyson apart in Tokyo last February and won the undisputed world title with a 10th-round knockout.

He has mostly himself to blame for that. The ex-champion, who has a reputation for a big appetite, has frequently and proudly stated over the past few months that he was calling the shots in his camp.

His cornermen could also be



James 'Buster' Douglas

criticised for allowing him to be so out of condition. They blithely admitted they had not weighed their fighter once while he was training for the bout, which had been scheduled for 12 rounds.

Douglas was looked on by many as a fluke champion, for beating what some thought was a hollow Tyson in Tokyo.

All of which may mean that Holyfield, criticised for being just a blown-up cruiserweight, may not get the respect that he might have received if he had been forced to work harder for the title against a more worthy opponent.

Holyfield, who weighed 94 kilograms, is likely to fight George Foreman in March.

Even if the 28-year-old Holyfield wins that fight, he will probably still not get respect for his superb conditioning and relentless attacking style in the ring, until he fights Tyson for the title. That may be in the autumn of next year.

But for now, the \$8 million that

Holyfield was paid for this fight — only his seventh as a heavyweight — and more importantly the tens of millions more he will get for future appearances may be some consolation.

The new champion says he became fascinated with boxing when he was just eight years old, the youngest of four boys and four girls growing up in Atlanta.

At the 1984 Olympics, Holyfield won a bronze medal at 22. He probably should have won gold but was disqualified for throwing a punch, which knocked out his opponent, after the referee had called stop.

A video of the fight showed Holyfield could not have stopped the punch in time.

But Holyfield did not rant and rave over that decision. He accepted it stoically, applying his philosophy of learning from every fight and taking solace in his religion and his mother.

"I have a strong lady in my life, my mother, who always taught me you have to live for today. Tomorrow is not always promising. And a lot of that comes from a lot of pride and a lot of faith," Holyfield said.

He improved to a 25-0 record

against Douglas Thursday night. Douglas will likely be recalled as a one-fight fighter, a journeyman who made the most of his chance to grab belt, then faded back into anonymity.

He will be recalled critically by some, who will question his talent, dedication and courage.

But because of his one night of glory, his shocking knockout of Tyson in Tokyo, Douglas became, after all, a heavyweight champion for a time.

"It'll hurt not being the champion. But it was attaining a goal, becoming the champion, and not attaining another — defending the title," Douglas, sadness clearly evident on his round, almost child-like face, said after Holyfield took his undisputed world heavyweight title.

Douglas apparently caught Tyson out of shape and unconfident in their fight in Japan.

In July 1986, in just his 12th

fight for money, Holyfield upset heavily-favoured Dwight Muhammad Qawi on points to win the World Boxing Association (WBA) junior heavyweight and International Boxing Federation (IBF) cruiserweight titles.

He added the World Boxing Council (WBC) cruiserweight title by knocking out Carlos DeLeon in April 1988.

Then he moved up to heavyweight and its heavy money against James "Quick" Taliis, who fell in the fifth round in July 1988.

Pinklon Thomas followed as an eighth-round knockout victim that December.

In the process, Holyfield, helped by intensive weightlifting and conditioning work, added 20 pounds (nine kilogrammes) of muscle.

But he never did grow to be very big. His top weight was 212 pounds (96 kilogrammes) and he fought Douglas at 208 (94 kilogrammes) which many thought was too light.

"I've had setbacks going back to my amateur career," Holyfield has said. "I never was what you would call the best but I always improved."

He improved to a 25-0 record

in the 10th round of a 1987 loss to Tony Tucker for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title, and some observers feel he could have beaten the count against Holyfield.

"He could have gotten up. He chose not to. Maybe he was his own reasons," said Eddie Futch, who trained the likes of Joe Frazier and Larry Holmes and also trained a winner on the undercard Thursday night — Riddick Bowe.

Douglas claimed he could not get up in time.

"He caught me with a good shot. By the time I tried to pick up the count, it was over," he said. "If I could have gotten up, I would have."

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Ferrari urges crackdown on dangerous driving

MARANELLO, Italy (R) — Ferrari President Piero Fusaro Thursday called for a crackdown on Formula One drivers who "believe that crashes are now an acceptable tactic."

In a letter to Jean-Marie Balestre, president of FISA, motor racing's world governing body, Fusaro said the credibility of Formula One racing had been undermined by the way the last two drivers' championships had been decided.

But he stopped short of threatening to withdraw from Formula One.

Ferrari were the losers in Sunday's crash between Brazilian Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost

of France in the opening lap of the Japanese Grand Prix.

Prost's Ferrari and Senna's McLaren collided at the first bend, forcing both drivers to retire and ending Prost's chances of retaining his world title.

Senna became champion for the second time but Prost later accused him of deliberately provoking the crash by going for a gap which did not exist because he knew the Ferrari was a superior car. Senna hotly denied the charge.

The 1989 world championship also ended in controversy in Japan when the same two drivers crashed into each other, resulting in the title going to Prost.

Dayjur, the Kentucky-bred European sensation, is favourite

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Peanuts



Kasparov favoured after sloppy title chess draw

NEW YORK (R) A quarter of the way into a 24-game title chess duel, experts predict Garry Kasparov's crown is reasonably safe from challenger Anatoly Karpov, but the king of world chess is still far from declaring a final checkmate.

To complicate matters, a 12-2 tie leaves the championship in Kasparov's hands.

Kasparov and Karpov are notorious for their total conflict both on and off the board.

Once the match has begun,

gentlemanly behaviour rules — behaviour that Kasparov has labelled an act, adopted purely for the sake of decorum.

Their hatred is now solely expressed in the abstract manoeuvring taking place on the chessboard and the subtle language of twitch and grimace playing their faces.

Cheer experts say they detected

a crippling sense of fear in the way Karpov played the sixth game.

U.S. Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan interpreted the latest game bleakly for the challenger.

This illustrates the closeness of

their rivalry and Karpov's stature as a player. He was world champion for 10 years before being toppled by Kasparov.

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Economy

Czech parliament approves privatisation

PRAGUE (AP) — Parliament Thursday overwhelmingly approved a law to turn over to private hands about 100,000 small shops and enterprises nationalised in 40 years of communism.

The law was approved by 202 of the 239 deputies present and voting, the state CTK news agency reported.

The privatisation process is a key part of reforms aimed at transforming Czechoslovakia's centralised economy into a Western-style one guided by market mechanisms.

Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, who presented the draft to the legislature Wednesday, said it marked a compromise "which cannot satisfy all completely."

The law on the so-called "small privatisation" will apply to some 100,000 shops and small enterprises with an overall value of approximately 200 billion crowns (\$83.3 million), equivalent to nearly half the nation's annual budget.

Thousands of vendors across the country staged symbolic strikes last month demanding they be given first crack at buying the shops and a chance to pay for up to half the price in install-

ments spread over a seven year period.

They were concerned that they would be done out of the chance to purchase their shops by people with large amounts of capital to invest, such as foreigners or communist functionaries who amassed fortunes under the former regime.

Although the government draft was planning to give current employees the option of installment payments over five years, the final version approved by parliament excludes any provisions which would give preferential treatment to any potential buyer.

Auctions will be held in two rounds with the first round being accessible only to Czechoslovak citizens.

Shops and enterprises which are not sold in the first round will proceed to the second, in which Czechoslovak emigres and some foreigners will also be allowed to bid.

The auctions will begin at prices determined by the government. The minimum price acceptable for any shop sold is 50 per cent of the proposed amount.

Gulf crisis, Comecon said to cost East Europe \$15 b

PRAGUE (R) — Higher oil prices due to the Gulf crisis and changes in trade in the former Soviet Bloc will cost the reforming nations of Eastern Europe \$15 billion a year, a senior World Bank official has said.

"That's large. It's almost five per cent of the gross domestic product of these economies," Willi Wapenhaus, World Bank vice-president for Europe, Middle East and Africa told a news conference.

The disintegration of the Soviet-led trade bloc Comecon, in which Moscow previously provided its satellites with cheap energy and raw materials in exchange for low quality manufactured goods, would cost Eastern Europe \$7.8 billion a year, he said.

If oil averages \$25 a barrel over a 12-month period as a result of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, the costs for Eastern Europe would be the same again.

The World Bank, and its sister organisation the International Monetary Fund (IMF), would not allow the reform process in Eastern Europe to be derailed by this

new oil shock, Wapenhaus said. They would provide significant financial aid.

U.S. President George Bush has asked the IMF to increase lending to Eastern Europe by up to \$5 billion because of the crisis.

But Wapenhaus said the inefficient economies of Eastern Europe could not be sheltered from the impact of dearer oil.

"These economies must be subjected to the discipline of a realistic price for energy," he said. "I would suggest passing through the costs of energy very quickly."

Industry in Eastern Europe consumed up to four times as much energy per unit of output as industry in Western Europe, so enormous savings were possible.

But these could not be mobilised overnight, making some external aid necessary, said Wapenhaus.

Wapenhaus said the World Bank would help Czechoslovakia and other East European countries restructure their economies.

It had already committed \$2.8 billion to Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia this year, he said.

Czechoslovakia and Romania

have also resumed relations with the World Bank and IMF, and Bulgaria has joined.

Czechoslovakia was liberalising foreign trade to bring in competition to domestic industry which still operated as a set of monopolies, he said.

But that could have an initial adverse impact on the balance of payments, so Prague would need some external financial help to avoid having to ration foreign exchange.

The end of central planning also requires Czechoslovakia to reform its banking system. Instead of the government allocating funds, independent banks must lend at their own risk with a view to making a profit.

But before reforms can bear fruit and attract foreign investment, Czechoslovakia and the other reforming countries must create a proper legal and regulatory framework, he said.

And the authorities must create a social safety net, which will help retrain workers, so that the restructuring of enterprises does not lead to mass unemployment, he said.

Jordan checks illegal currency trade, monitors foreign exchange outflow

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faced with a new boom in illegal dealings in foreign currency in the wake of the uncertainty and fears of war in the Gulf, the Jordanian authorities have launched a fresh crackdown on black market dealers in a move aimed at checking the outflow of foreign exchange in the country.

"The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) used to tolerate the black market in foreign currency since the volume involved was not significant to have any major impact on the country's monetary situation," said a senior official. "But the picture changed in the wake of the Gulf crisis when the public panicked and rushed to buy foreign currency and the difference between the official and black market rates widened and breached the accepted level of 10 per cent," he explained.

A security source said "a few arrests" of unlicensed foreign currency dealers were made during the past 10 days. Some people are sceptical of the fresh crackdown. "The push appears to focus on small-time dealers who make a few dinars out of the foreigners and tourists who visit the souq downtown," said a businessman. "The largest amount one of them might handle a day is probably not more than a hundred dollars," he added. "What about those who deal in the thousands, sitting in their plush offices in Shmeisani and Jabal Amman?" he asked.

Several banking experts said they doubted whether any significant amount in foreign currency in cash has left the country in the wake of the Gulf crisis. "In my opinion, the bulk of those who rushed and bought foreign currency in the first few weeks (of the Gulf crisis) has not really transferred their money outside the country," said an official at one of Jordan's leading commercial banks. "They appear to be hanging on to their cash right here the country for whatever reason."

Prior to the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the difference between the rates set by the CBJ and on the black market was less than three per cent, with the

American dollar fetching around 665 fils in the black market against the 665 to 670 fils set by the central bank. Since then, the difference has grown into 12 to 14 per cent, with the CBJ rate going down to 650 to 655 fils in line with the decline in the international value of the dollar but the black market rate growing to 725 to 735 fils.

Aspirants to new licences for exchange houses are confident that they had more sympathy in the Lower House of Parliament whose approval can be essential before the law is enacted. They hope that they could influence the House into amending the draft law.

"Let the democratisation process take its course," said another ex-dealer. "We are sure that the strict conditions that are included in the draft law could be amended to allow people with smaller capitals to operate," he said.

One of the pillars of the arguments put forward by potential applicants for licences is that the government had affirmed that moneychangers had a very small role in the dramatic plunge in the value of the dinar in late 1988 although they were accused of "tampering with the national economy" when they were forced to close down in February 1989.

In the meantime, the impact on the blackmarket of the crackdown is yet to be visible. "Buying and selling dollars has become a way of life for almost everyone downtown," commented a banking official.

"From cassette kiosks to vegetable sellers, everyone has been buying and selling dollars," he said. "But what everyone risks is getting stuck with counterfeit."

The circulation of counterfeit dollars, which security sources say have been brought in from the occupied territories as well as Syria, assumed an alarming proportion in the middle and late last year and dozens of people caught with forged currency are currently serving jail sentences. One of them was caught with almost half million dollars in forged banknotes.

"Some of the notes are so good that they are okayed by normal equipment at commercial banks," commented a senior security source. "In some cases, such notes had to be passed through sophisticated detectors at the Central Bank before being established that they were forged," he said.

Japan to maintain aid to Latin America despite crisis in Gulf

TOKYO (R) — Japan will maintain its level of economic aid to Latin America despite new commitments in the Gulf and a reluctance to make foreign loans among private Japanese banks, Jordan and Turkey since the crisis began.

At the same time, official aid has become even more vital for Latin America because funds from private Japanese banks have all but dried up, economists and bankers say.

"No Japanese banks are currently able to make fresh loans to Latin America," said Koichi Ito, an official at the foreign ministry's aid policy division.

Japan's bilateral ODA to Latin America was \$563 million in 1989, or a 8.3 per cent of Tokyo's total bilateral ODA, compared with \$399 million, or 6.2 per cent of the total, in 1988.

Many developing countries are

worried that the Gulf crisis will divert large amounts of foreign aid away from them and towards the Middle East. Japan has pledged \$2 billion in aid to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey since the crisis began.

The parliament also approved \$47.6 million to enable the Community to fund regional environmental protection programmes.

The parliament's budget calls for an 11 per cent increase over this year's EC budget of \$66.2 billion.

During debate, members of parliament spoke repeatedly of the need to help the newly merged parts of Germany adjust to EC economic and environmental standards.

But they insisted that there would not be enough money for other vital EC projects if the money came out of the main budget, which is limited by agreements among EC institutions.

The government plans to keep channelling about 10 per cent of its bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to Latin America," said Koichi Ito, an official at the foreign ministry's aid policy division.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, October 25, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	652.0	656.0	Japanese yen (for 100)
Pound Sterling	1278.2	1285.9	Dutch guilder
Deutschmark	432.8	435.4	Swedish krona
Swiss franc	513.8	516.9	Italian lira (for 100)
French franc	129.3	130.1	Belgian franc (for 10)

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.9555/65	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1670/80	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1.5170/75	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs
	1.7090/7100	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	1.2820/25	Belgian francs	French francs
	31.22/27	French francs	Italian lire
	5.0725/75	Italian lire	Japanese yen
	1135/1136	Japanese yen	Swedish krona
	128.15/20	Swedish krona	Norwegian krona
	5.6250/6300	Norwegian krona	Danish krona
	5.8940/90	Danish krona	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	376.60/377.10		

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO	— Tokyo stocks closed lower as higher oil prices spread bearish sentiment through the market. Profit-taking and position-squaring before the weekend pushed prices down. The Nikkei closed down 346.99 points or 1.37 per cent to 25,005.64.

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Bhutto opts for provincial polls after national election defeat

KARACHI (Agencies) — Sacked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would contest provincial elections Saturday despite its crushing defeat in a national vote it charged was rigged.

"There is no boycott of the provincial elections," she told a news conference in the Sind province capital Karachi Thursday.

"There was a lot of pressure from my partymen to boycott the provincial elections. I have persuaded them not to boycott them."

Wiping away tears, Bhutto said the PPP was a party of struggle and should contest the local elections. "If the elections are rigged, the government will be further exposed," she said.

The Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), one of whose leaders heads the caretaker government that replaced Bhutto's, emerged as big winner in Wednesday's elections with 105 of the 217-seat National Assem-

hy (lower house).

The PPP won only 45 seats, less than half of the 93 it captured in 1988 elections that made Bhutto the Muslim World's first elected woman prime minister.

Bhutto said cheating by the caretaker government had been unfair and added that he had not anticipated such a "complete mandate."

The IDA lacks a majority but its spokesmen said it was in a comfortable position to form a government.

Bhutto denied the charges, but she and several colleagues were put on trial by special one-judge tribunals empowered to disqualify them from parliament and jail them for up to seven years.

At a news conference Thursday Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi denied the elections had been rigged and called on Bhutto to accept the result.

Jatoi said the PPP trials would

continue and that the special courts would decide the cases on merit.

"Certainly justice will be done in each individual case" he said.

Nawaz Sharif, IDA chief and a contender for the premiership, also denied the polling had been unfair and added that he had not anticipated such a "complete mandate."

The IDA lacks a majority but its spokesmen said it was in a comfortable position to form a government.

Bhutto said ballot boxes had been snatched or stuffed and that polling agents had been arrested.

"Today we do not have a people's parliament. Today we have president's parliament..." Bhutto said.

She asked all of the PPP's defeated candidates to challenge the poll results through election petitions.

"The fact is that they rigged so heavily because they want to have a constitutional dictatorship," Bhutto said. "Pakistan is going

towards a political polarisation."

An international observer team sent to Pakistan to watch the country's national elections said Friday it found no evidence to back claims by Bhutto of widespread rigging.

"As of today, the delegation has received no evidence that would allow us to substantiate allegations concerning irregular vote totals," team leader Vahid Halefogin told a news conference.

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9 killed in new South African unrest

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies)

Police opened fire to break up protests and black factions clashed in several towns, leaving nine blacks dead and scores wounded, police said Friday.

Five blacks were killed Thursday and about 80 injured in battles with riot police in Khayelitsha township outside Cape Town after police broke up a march with shotgun fire, police said. It was not clear how many died from police bullets.

Clashes continued Thursday night, with police shooting at youths who erected barricades to block streets. At least 50 blacks were hurt, but no other casualties were immediately reported.

Residents said the area remained tense Friday and that heavily armed police units roamed the township.

The independent South African Press Association and several newspapers reported seven people had been killed in the clashes. Police denied the reports.

A police statement Friday said four people were killed in black factional fighting in Natal province during the previous 24 hours.

A group of black with rifles attacked a house at Ntuzuma, killing two men and wounding a woman, the statement said. Two black men were killed at Mnjiama, but police gave no details.

Police did not elaborate on the factional fighting. More than 5,000 blacks have been killed since 1986 in fighting between supporters of the African National Congress and the conservative Inkatha Movement.

Three blacks were hurt late Thursday in Pretoria when passengers jumped out of a moving train after men with whips attacked people, police said.

Police said the attackers were trying to enforce a work boycott. They said they had no details of the boycott.

Tension has been high in Khayelitsha since the slaying last week of Monsa Mapongwana, the wife of an anti-apartheid leader in the township. There have been no claims of responsibility or arrests in the slaying.

The military has accused the KMU of being a Communist front. The trade union denied the charge and accused the government of witch-hunting.

KMU Chairman Crispin Beltran, in hiding since the strike, issued a statement denouncing the government.

As a legitimate labour centre, we condemn even as we deny their repeated malicious assertion that the KMU is (a Communist) front which aims to topple the Aquino regime."

Many residents of black townships oppose the local councils and consider council members collaborators with the white-minority government.

Firefighters put out the blaze, but police said township residents began hurling stones at officers, who then fired tear gas, rubber bullets and birdshot.

Meanwhile President F.W. De Klerk returned Friday from a four-day tour of Europe and Africa, confident the rest of the world is accepting his message of apartheid reform.

De Klerk told a news conference after arriving at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport that he has encountered nothing but a mood of realism in the 25 countries he has visited.

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Revolt brews against Singh to delay elections

NEW DELHI (R) — India's political horse-trading intensified Friday with a rebellion brewing against Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in hopes of delaying elections he plans to call soon, political sources said.

Almost constant violence in the past five weeks over caste and religious rows has prompted politicians from most parties to say privately the last thing they want now is elections.

Last November's poll, in which Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party lost its majority for only the second time since India's independence from Britain in 1947, was the country's bloodiest.

Chandra Shekhar is just up to what he has been up to since the beginning. It's hare-brained scheme that is not viable," said one senior Janata Dal official.

The official said Singh's plans remained unaltered.

"We are proceeding on the premise that we will lose on the floor on an issue of principle. Then we will have elections."

Singh plans to ask for a vote of confidence in his policy of preventing Hindu fundamentalists from building a temple where a mosque stands in the northern town of Ayodhya and on his plan to reserve more government jobs to lower-caste Hindus.

Both issues have prompted widespread violence. The arrest of BJP leader Lal Krishan Advani to halt his march to Ayodhya, where he planned to start building the temple on Oct. 30, led to more violence.

At least 70 people had died in Hindu-Muslim rioting since Advani's arrest Tuesday, which prompted the BJP to withdraw support from Singh's government.

Moore expects to win in New Zealand elections

WELLINGTON (R) — Despite powerful evidence that the opposition can sleepwalk to victory, Prime Minister Mike Moore says he still believes New Zealand's Labour government can snatch a win in Saturday's general election.

"I'm optimistic about it. Don't underestimate the people out there. They are getting a bit tired of being told what to do," told reporters at his Christchurch home Friday.

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